

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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SS-15 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0280

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0142

DAKAR FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PU, CV

SUBJECT: DEFENSE ATTACHE VISIT TO GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE

SUMMARY: USDAO AIRCRAFT AND DEFENSE ATTACHE VISITED GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE MARCH 16-19. DESPITE GOOD DEAL SUSPICION ON PART BOTH GOVERNMENTS OF NATURE OF MISSION, TRIP WENT SMOOTHLY. DEFATT RECEIVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH ARMED FORCES(FARP) WHO STRESSED OPENNESS THEIR COUNTRIES TO WEST AND NEED TO FORGET PAST ANIMOSITIES.

1. BOTH GOGB AND GOCV CAREFULLY CONSIDERED REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR VISIT OF DAO PLANE AND WITHELD FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL LAST MINUTE. MOFA IN BISSAU INFORMED EMBASSY SHORTLY BEFORE ARRIVAL OF PLANE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO FOLLOW PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITINERARY TO INTERIOR BUT THAT GOGB WOULD PROVIDE LOCAL PLANE FOR THIS PURPOSE. CHARGE PROTESTED THIS TURN ABOUT AND POINTED TO INCONGRUITY IN TREATMENT THIS VISIT AND THAT OF SOVIET DESTROYER LAST YEAR. MATTER RESOLVED WHEN PRESIDENT DECIDED PERMIT PLANS TO FOLLOW ORIGINAL ITINERARY (MECHANICAL
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PROBLEMS CANCELLED ALL BUT SMALL PORTION OF PLANNED INERIOR TRAVEL).

2. IN BISSAU DATT HUGHES MET WITH POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF FARP, JULIO CARVALHO, AFTER REQUESTED MEETING WITH MINDEF VIEIRA DID NOT MATERIALIZE. CARVALHO, WHO SHARP CAPE VERDEAN OFFICER WHO HANDLES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF ARMED FORCES,

RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO DATT'S SUGGESTION OF FUTURE VISITS. CARVALHO REITERATED PAIGC LINE OF OPENNESS TO WEST PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT IMPORTANCE CURRENT NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PHASE OF STRUGGLE WHICH HAD TO DEPEND ON WEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE GAVE INTERESTING SKETCH OF THREE ROLES OF FARP IN GUINEA-BISSAU SOCIETY: 1) AS TRADITIONAL DEFENDER OF PEACE; 2) AS VANGUARD OF PAIGC IN ITS TASKS OF POLITICIZATION OF THE MASSES; AND 3) PARTICIPATION IN CIVILIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

3. ONLY INTERIOR STOP WAS IN BAFATA WHERE DATT LAID WREATH AT AMILCAR CABRAL MEMORIAL. CARVALHO AND MOFA AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD VIEIRA ACCOMPANIED.

4. VISIT TO CAPE VERDE HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SILVINO DA LUZ (SEPTTEL). DELEGATION ALSO VISITED PRAIA, SAO VINCENTE AND SAL AND IN EACH PLACE WAS RECEIVED BY LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATE. ALTHOUGH CAPE VERDEANS DID NOT AUTHORIZE TOUR OF AMILCAR CABRAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON SAL ISLAND, THEY FREELY PERMITTED AIRCRAFT OVERFLY ALL ISLANDS AND WENT ALL OUT IN PROVIDING CARS, ARRANGING MEALS, ETC. TO MAKE VISIT RUN SMOOTHLY.

5. COMMENT: FACT DATT AND AIRCRAFT WERE PERMITTED IN FIRST PLACE IS POSITIVE SIGN THAT EVEN WITHIN ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY APPARAT WHERE SOVIETS AND CUBANS HAVE MOST INFLUENCE, ACCESS IS NOT CLOSED TO US. RELATIVELY FRIENDLY AND HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION GIVEN DELEGATION PARTICULARLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPE VERDE IS FURTHER PROOF GOCV AND GOGB CONTENTION THAT THEY WISH LET BYGONES BY BYGONES.
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Message Attributes

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